

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, May 30, 2003*

## ALLEGED LEADERS OF VIOLENT LATINO GANG IN NORTHWEST DC ARE INDICTED

Following a year-long joint investigation with the MPDC, the US Attorney's Office this week announced the indictment of six alleged leaders of the "Vatos Locos" street gang on murder, assault and conspiracy charges. The suspects have been tied to at least five shootings, including two homicides, that occurred over a wide area of Northwest DC. The crimes include a fatal daytime shooting last October on the track outside Roosevelt High School, as well as shootings in the 1000 block of Irving Street, NW, and the 6000 block of 13<sup>th</sup> Place, NW. The indictment alleges that the violence stemmed from the gang's ongoing feuds with two other Latino gangs, Mara R and STC. The six suspects range in age from 17 to 22. Five of the suspects are from Northwest DC; the sixth suspect had no fixed address. Four of the six suspects were arrested soon after the shooting outside Roosevelt and have been in jail since November 2002. The suspects were arraigned in DC Superior Court on the latest indictment on May 30. Officials of the MPDC and USAO said the investigation into Latino gang violence in DC is continuing.

- ① Read the complete news release at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2103>

## "OPERATION FIGHT BACK" PRODUCES RESULTS IN PSA 411

Earlier this month, police, other city agencies and residents of PSA 411 teamed up to take on some of the longstanding crime and disorder problems affecting their community, specifically in the 3500 block of 14th Street, NW. It was part of the MPDC's ongoing "Operation Fight Back" initiative that targets troubled communities with a variety of resources in a coordinated, day-long sweep. The PSA 411 operation began early in the morning on May 7, with MPDC officers serving several arrest warrants in the area. Later that morning, the Departments of Public Works and Housing cleaned alleys and issued warnings for uncovered trash. Members of the Corporation Counsel's Office and Operation Crackdown met with the owner of a problem property identified by residents; he was advised of nuisance abatement laws and procedures. And a variety of community outreach efforts took place, including McGruff the Crime Dog and the Health Department's "Project Orion" Alcohol and Medical Services Van. An outdoor roll call was held in the block, and 4D officers conducted enhanced traffic enforcement in the area. "Operation Fight Back" is a citywide, multi-agency strategy designed to tackle stubborn crime and disorder problems in specific neighborhoods throughout DC.

- ① For details, including photos, of the recent "Fight Back" operation in PSA 411, go to:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/fightback\\_411.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/fightback_411.shtm)
- ① Each of the seven police districts holds at least one "Fight Back" operation each month. For general information about the initiative, click on:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/fightback.shtm>
- ① Operation Crackdown provides community groups with free legal representation to combat quality-of-life problems that often arise in areas where drug use is prevalent. Details are on the DC Bar Association's website:  
<http://www.badc.org/html/ylocd.htm>

## SUSPECT ARRESTED IN MURDER OF 5-MONTH-OLD NORTHEAST GIRL

Thanks to the actions of an alert MPDC sergeant, the suspect in the recent homicide of a 5-month-old girl in Northeast was arrested early in the morning of Friday, May 30 – just hours after a warrant for the suspect's arrest had been issued. Richard Preston, 26, of no fixed address, has been charged with felony murder in the death of 5-month-old Amhir

Sampson. DC Fire and EMS personnel were called to the girl's home in the 1700 block of Benning Road, NE, on May 20 for the report of an unconscious child. She died three days later at the hospital. The Office of the DC Chief Medical Examiner ruled her death a homicide caused by blunt force impact trauma of the head. Following an investigation by the MPDC's Special Victims Unit, an arrest warrant charging Preston, the victim's father, was issued on May 29. Just before 1 am on May 30, Sergeant Brett Parson, head of the MPDC's Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit, observed Preston in the 2400 block of P Street, NW. Parson arrested him without incident. He was scheduled to be arraigned in DC Superior Court on May 30.

## CIVILIAN VACANCIES AVAILABLE IN THE MPDC

The MPDC is currently recruiting for two specialized civilian positions within the department. One position is for a Management Analysis Officer in the MPDC's Testing and Standards Branch (Announcement Number FA 03-10, closing June 9, 2003). A primary responsibility of the position is to serve as project manager and contract administrator supervising vendors that the Department hires to evaluate, develop, or administer testing materials. The position is also responsible for planning, organizing, controlling, evaluating, and modifying testing and evaluation programs for sworn and civilian personnel of the MPDC, among other duties. The second position is for an Information Technology Specialist within the MPDC's Fleet Services unit (Announcement Number FA 03-09, closing June 13, 2003). This position plans, organizes and carries out a variety of technical assignments to support operations and maintenance of the MPDC's fleet of vehicles. In addition to determining output media and format and designing user interfaces, the position is responsible for moderate script coding, assisting users in the use of database query tools, providing help to users with reports and report generating tools, and writing and maintaining program documentation, among other duties.

- ① For complete information about both positions, including salary ranges and application procedures, visit the civilian recruiting page at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/civilian.shtml>
- ① The MPDC continues to recruit for sworn police officers, including during a day-long Career Fair scheduled for Saturday, June 28, 2003, at the new Washington Convention Center. Interested

## NEWS & NOTES

**Orange Hat Patrol Mobilization Training.** Residents who want to learn how to join, expand or form an Orange Hat citizen patrol group in their community are invited to a training session on Saturday, June 7, at Bruce-Monroe Elementary School, 3012 Georgia Avenue, NW. The session is open to all interested DC residents. For more information, contact Yvonne Smith in the Fourth District substations, (202) 576-8227.

**Public Input on Proposed PSA Boundaries.** The MPDC continues to seek public comment on the proposed changes to the Police Service Area boundaries. Public meetings are scheduled next week in the Fourth and Sixth Districts; comments may also be submitted via letter or email. Details at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2091>.

**Drug Free Zones.** A drug free zone in the Sixth Police Districts continues through Monday. Next weekend, drug free zones are tentatively planned for targeted locations in the First, Third and Seventh Districts. Details on the Anti-Loitering/Drug Free Zone law are at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/drugfreezone.shtml>

**Torch Run for Special Olympics.** The MPDC will be joining approximately 40 other law enforcement agencies in the DC region in supporting this year's annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, to held on June 6. Details at <http://www.specialolympicsdc.org>

### DATA BOX

#### Homicides (as of 5/30/03)

- 2003: 99
- 2002: 92
- % Change: +7.6%

#### Arrests (week ending 5/24/03)

- Total: 812
- Drugs: 156
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 25
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 34

#### Firearm Recoveries (as of 5/27/03)

- Total: 783
- April: 137

#### Traffic Fatalities (as of 5/30/03)

- 2003: 20
- 2002: 26
- % Change: -23.1%

**Information, ideas, or comments about this service?** Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

**mpdc.dc.gov**